

## Office Memorandum ☆ TULARE COUNTY

TO : Each Board Member

DATE: April 26, 1978

FROM : Art Alexander *me*

SUBJECT: Inflation and Proposition 13

Proponents of Proposition 13 have been suggesting that the cost of Government is going up faster than everything else. In the April 24, 1978 issue of Time Magazine an article appeared covering inflation. After reading the article I wondered how County Government compared to other sectors of the economy during the past 10 years. The following data appeared in Time:

**THE COSTS OF LIVING**

**NEW CAR**  
(average price)  
1977-\$6,120

1972-\$3,690  
1967-\$3,200

**CLOTHING**  
(price index)  
1978-156.8

1972-122.3  
1967-100

**MEDICAL CARE**  
(price index)

1978-213.3

1972-132.5

1967-100

**NEW HOUSE**  
(median price)

1978-\$53,300

**HOME REPAIRS**  
(price index)

1978-239.5

**MORTGAGE\***

(av. monthly payments)

1978-\$430

\*Includes tax and insurance payments

1972-\$209

1967-\$152

**GROCERIES**  
(weekly bill per family of four)

1977-\$67

1972-\$43

1967-\$35

**FUEL**  
(average annual gas bill)  
1977-\$274

1972-\$155

1967-\$122

1972-\$27,800

1967-\$22,700

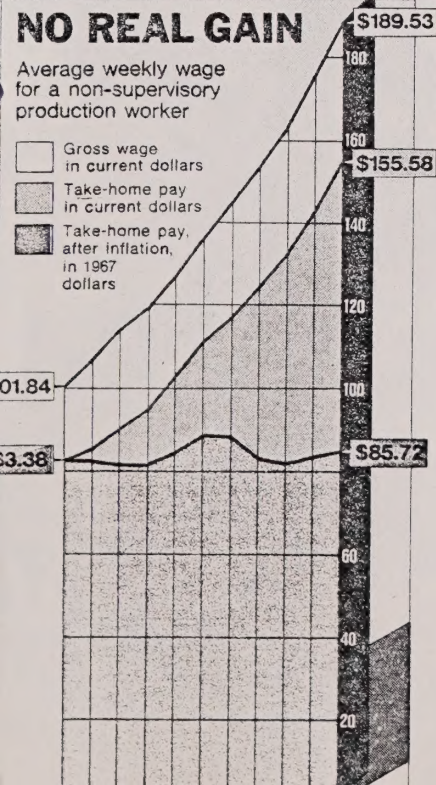
1972-147.9

1967-100

**NO REAL GAIN**

Average weekly wage for a non-supervisory production worker

□ Gross wage in current dollars  
□ Take-home pay in current dollars  
■ Take-home pay, after inflation, in 1967 dollars



In 1967-68 the County property tax requirements were \$14,851,132 compared to \$25,933,671 in 1977-78 -- an increase of 75%. The other sectors of the economy look like this:

New Cars	91% Increase
Clothing	57% Increase
Medical Care	113% Increase
New Houses	135% Increase
Fuel	125% Increase
Home Repairs	140% Increase
Mortgage Payments	182% Increase
Groceries	91% Increase
Weekly Wages	86% Increase

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Outside of clothing, the best buy today is County Government.



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